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24 October 1956

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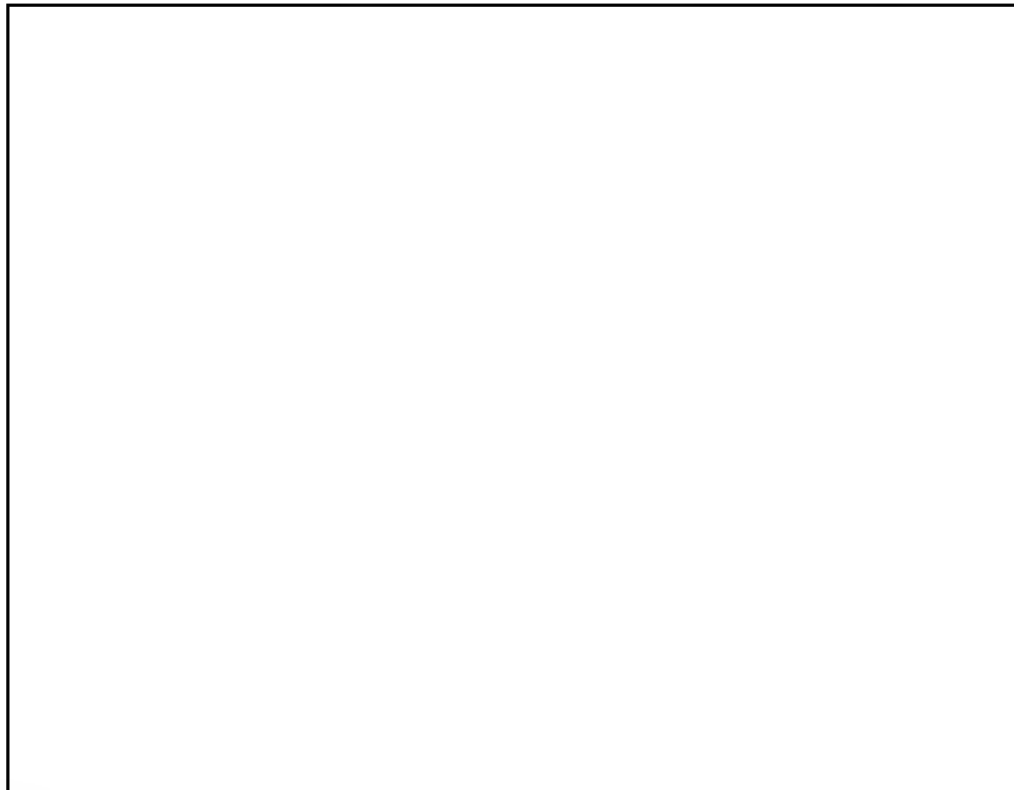
CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 4
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒
☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C 2089
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 21 Dec 79 REVIEWER:

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**OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

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State Department review completed

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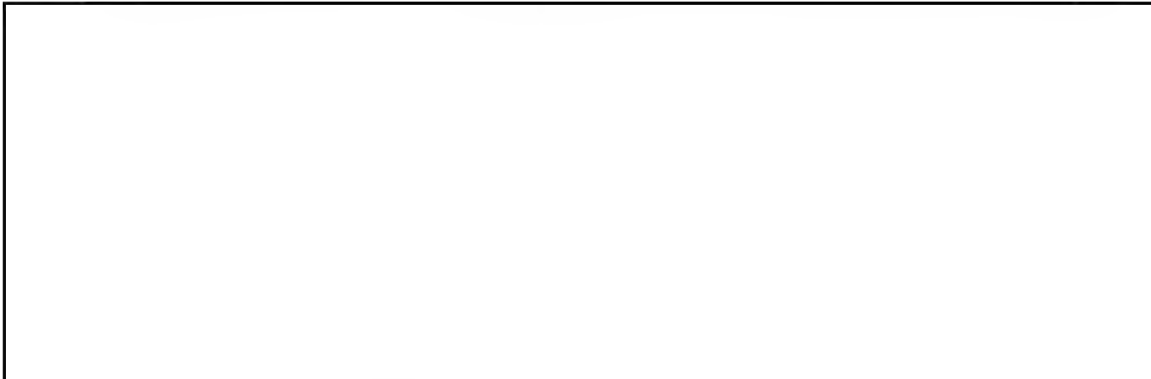
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1. HUNGARIAN PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS LEAD TO
POLITICAL CRISIS

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Hungarian Communist leaders are facing a major political crisis brought on by demands of party moderates and an aroused public that Hungary follow Poland's lead in asserting greater independence from the Kremlin. An emergency meeting of the central committee of the party has been called to deal with the situation.

Demonstrations by thousands of Hungarian university students, workers and off-duty soldiers on 23 October, demanding a new government headed by Imre Nagy and the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary, ended in violence. Police fired on demonstrators attempting to seize the Budapest radio station and to destroy a Stalin monument. At least one person was reported killed. Telephone communications with the West were cut off during the evening of 23 October and normal radio broadcasts were replaced by music programs.

The demonstrators, who throughout the afternoon were apparently orderly, may have been sparked to violence by a speech party leader Gero made shortly after his return from a visit to Belgrade.

Gero criticized the demonstrations as "chauvinist incitement" and "nationalism" in an uncompromising statement of continuing loyalty to the Soviet Union, ironically using the terminology of the charges under which Nagy had been expelled from office in 1955.

Gero, by his attempt to discredit the demonstrations, stands in marked contrast to those in the party leadership who actually endorsed such demonstrations in order to illustrate the close solidarity of the Hungarian party with the Polish party and its latest moves. Hungarian party moderates--who now appear to be dominant in the party--are presumably exerting great pressure on Gero to resign, planning subsequently to declare, in effect, their "independence" of the Soviet Union along the lines of the Polish declaration last week end.

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**2. GOMULKA MAN IS NEW POLITICAL COMMISSAR
OF POLISH ARMY**

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The Polish news agency has announced that General Spychalski has replaced General Witaszewski as deputy minister of defense in charge of political affairs in the Polish armed forces. Spychalski was purged with Gomulka in 1949 and was returned with him to the central committee on 19 October.

Spychalski's appointment is probably intended to limit the authority of Defense Minister Rokossowski, who has already been dropped from the politburo, and pave the way for his removal. Until 1949 Spychalski was a deputy defense minister and deputy commander of the Polish armed forces.

Witaszewski is one of the "Stalinists" within the Polish Communist Party and a strong supporter of Marshal Rokossowski. He was instrumental in attempting to foster a wave of anti-Semitism in Poland as an attack on the intellectual liberals, many of whom are Jewish. Student and worker rallies on 20-21 October called for his replacement.

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3. POLISH OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN POLAND

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[redacted] Julian Hochfield, a prominent member of the Polish parliament currently visiting England, reportedly told [redacted]

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[redacted] that Poland was in a state of "second revolution" and that there was no turning back unless the Kremlin decided to use force. He stated that the bulk of the Polish army is patriotic and will fight only one enemy, the Russians.

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Hochfield said that Poland was facing bankruptcy and advocated an American loan of \$30,000,000 to \$45,000,000. If such a loan were not provided soon, he said, workers' riots would be likely, with the result that the Russians might intervene "to restore order."

Comment

Hochfield, a former Socialist and a member of the Polish politburo until the Gomulka purge in 1949, is considered to be a member of the liberal faction of the Polish Communist Party.

Since early summer several Polish officials and journalists have hinted to Westerners that Poland was interested in receiving extensive aid from the United States.

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7. GREEK PRIME MINISTER TO HEAD DELEGATION TO UN

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The decision of Greek prime minister Karamanlis to head his country's delegation at the UN General Assembly next month indicates his optimism that the assembly's decision on the Cyprus issue will be favorable. Karamanlis told Ambassador Allen that he hoped to have discussions with Washington officials while in the United States.

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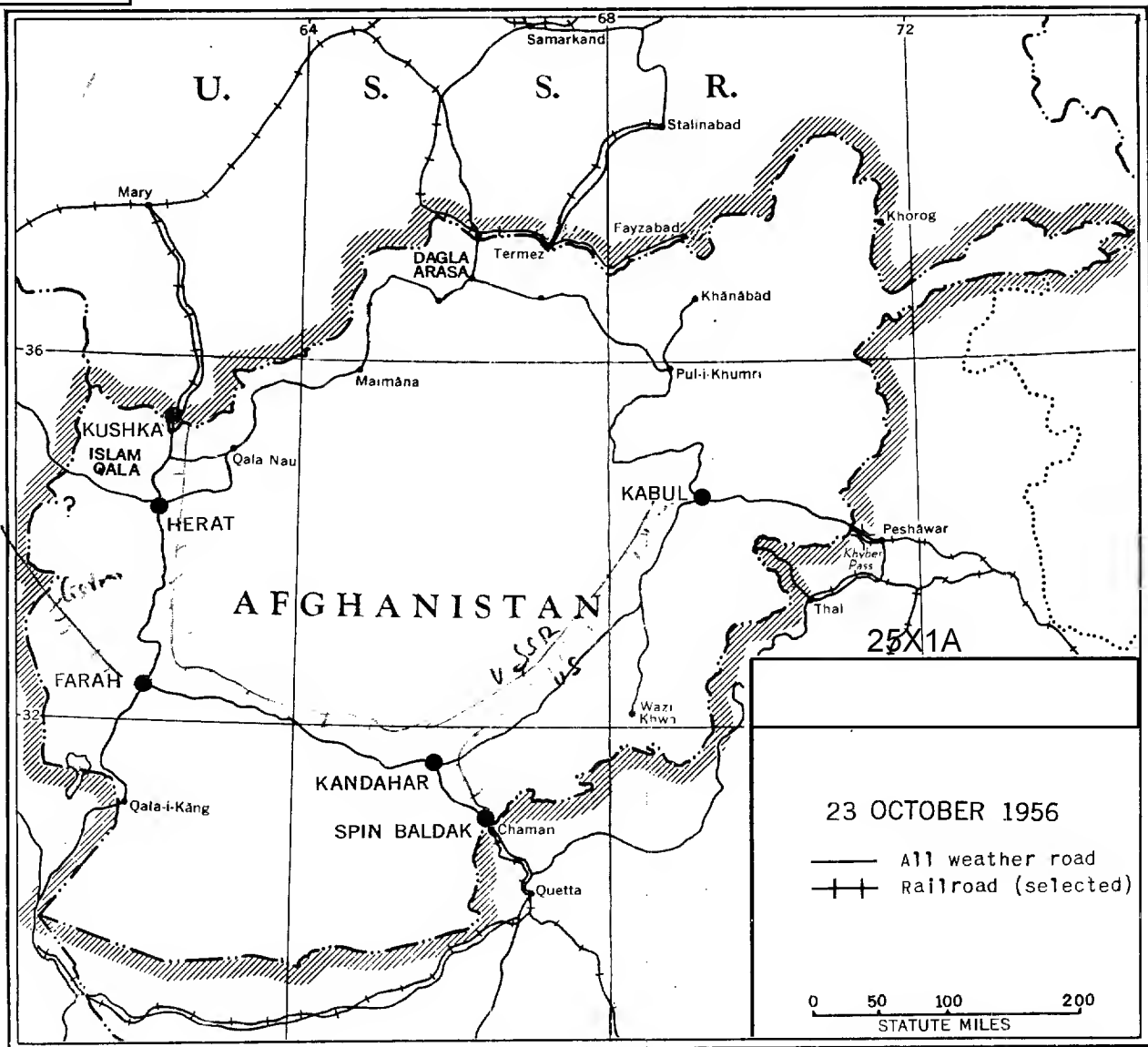
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10. AFGHANISTAN PROPOSES BUILDING RAILROAD WITH AMERICAN AID

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The Afghan government on 18 October gave the American embassy assurances it would co-operate in developing an Afghan-Pakistani transit project with American aid. Afghanistan, which has no railroads, said a railway line from Spin Baldak, on the Pakistani border,

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through Kandahar to Kabul would be preferable to highway improvements in the eastern and southeastern parts of the country. Foreign Minister Naim also stated that a railroad might in the long run prove more beneficial to his country.

According to the American embassy in Kabul, connecting Afghanistan by rail to the Indian subcontinent would facilitate economic progress. The Afghan suggestion seems particularly significant, however, in that it follows recent reports that the USSR had discussed the possibility of building a railroad from the Soviet border post at Kushka through Herat and Farah to Kandahar and Kabul, while a German Krupp corporation official reportedly announced on 29 August that the Iranian railway being built from Tehran to Meshed (near Herat) would be completed within a year and that a link with Afghanistan would follow.

Meaning?

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11. REACTION IN NORTH AFRICA TO SEIZURE OF ALGERIAN LEADERS

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Capture by the French of five Algerian nationalists on 22 October has led Tunisia to recall its ambassador from Paris and to threaten a complete rupture of relations and a renewal of guerrilla activity against the French. General strikes and violence have occurred in both Tunisia and Morocco, and the consul general in Casablanca reports that a breakdown of order must be expected. In view of the general situation, the sultan

of Morocco is breaking off his talks in Tunis and returning to Morocco.

Both the sultan and the premier of Tunisia, who have favored moderation and a negotiated settlement in Algeria, will now be forced to adopt more extreme and anti-French roles.

On 23 October representatives of the Arab states at the United Nations met to draft a protest against the French action. Such a protest would probably be supported in the UN by the Arab-Asian nations and the Soviet bloc.

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